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By Kristin Cope

PATENT

6P 1655
13/C
B. Webb
5/14/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John F. Stone

Docket No.: 36435.0100

Serial No.: 09/498,135

Filed: February 4, 2000

Examiner: Goldberg, J.

Title: CHROMOSOME-BASED METHOD FOR
FACILITATING DISEASE DIAGNOSIS

Group Art
Unit: 1655

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAY 02 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to continued examination of the above-identified Continuing Prosecution
Application, please enter the following amendments:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 8- 11, and 16-17 as follows.

Subd1 1. (Thrice Amended) A method suitable for facilitating disease diagnosis, the method comprising the steps of:

exposing cells of a patient suspected of having a disease for which chromosome damage is diagnostic, to a chromosome damaging agent selected to damage chromosomes within the nuclei of the cells to produce chromosome fragments having broken ends;

marking at least some of the broken ends; and

analyzing the marked broken ends within interphase cell nuclei to determine whether the cells were affected by the disease, wherein said analyzing includes comparing